

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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R 160450Z DE 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6597
COMMANDANT COAST GUARD WASHDC
INFO CHUSMTM DHAHRAN
COE RIYADH
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
SANG

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COAST GUARD FOR OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: ATTN.
CAPTAIN BLACK AND LT DICKY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, EWWT, SA
SUBJECT: COAST GUARD SURVEY OF SAUDI COAST GUARD

REF: COMMANDANT COAST GUARD MSG 101731Z DEC 76

SUMMARY: IN DECEMBER 13 MEETING COMANDER OF SAUDI COAST
GUARD/FRONTIER FORCES TOLD US PROPOSED ARRIVAL DATES FOR
USCG TEAM ACCEPTABLE. HELOOKING FORWARD TO TEAM'S ARRIVAL
AND HOPES THEY WILL COME UP WITH A PLAN TO REBUILD THE SAUDI
COAST GUARD FROM SCRATCH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT MANPOWER CON-
STRAINTS AND OTHER LOCAL CONTITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. POL CHIEF MURPHY MET WITH COMMANDER SAUDI COAST GUARD
AND FRONTIER FORCES (CG/**) LIEUTENANT GENERAL ABDULLAH
ABDARRAHMAN AL ASH-SHAYKH ON DECEMBER 13 TO DISCUSS THE
SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED BY USCG OF SAUDI COAST GUARD.
GENERAL AL ASH-SHAYKH SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE
TEAM'S ARRIVAL AND WAS HOPEFUL THAT THEIR EFFORT WOULD
REFLECT HONOR ON THE US GOVERNMENT AND SAUDI-US RELATIONS.
HE ASKED THAT THE TEAM BE INFORMED BEFORE IT ARRIVED THAT
HE DID NOT EXPECT A SURVEY WHICH WOULD MERELY TELL THE SAUDI
COAST GUARD WHAT ITS SHORTCOMINGS WERE AND RECOMMEND NEW
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TYPES OF EQUIPMENT. HE RATHER HOPED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR REBUILDING THE SAUDI COAST GUARD.

2. GENERAL AL ASH-SHAYKH SAID THAT WHEN HE TOOK OVER HIS PRESENT POSITION HE FOUND A FRONTIER FORCES MODERATELY CAPABLE OF PERFORMING ITS JOB AND A COAST GUARD NOT WORTHY OF THE NAME. PARTLY FOR THIS REASON, IN FACT, HE HAD OBTAINED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVAL TO DROP THE WORDS "COAST GUARD" FROM THE NAME OF HIS COMMAND. THE COAST GUARD, HE SAID, CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF A BUNCH OF POORLY TRAINED CIVILIANS WHO DROVE BOATS NOT VERY WELL. HE HAD BEEN CONCENTRATING SINCE ASSUMING HIS COMMAND UPON IMPROVING THE FRONTIER FORCES. HE WAS REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THAT BRANCH. AS FOR THE COAST GUARD, HE HAD APPROVED A NUMBER OF MEASURES INCLUDING CONTRACTS FOR TRAINING, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION. HE SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED ALL OF THE ACTIONS AS MERELY STOP-GAP MEASURES. ALL OF IT WAS TEMPORARY AND COULD IF NECESSARY BE DISCARDED IN RESHAPING THE COAST GUARD.

3. GENERAL AL ASH-SHAYKH SAID THAT HE HAD FEW ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK OF SHAPING UP THE COAST GUARD. HE DID NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO CREATE AN ORGANIZATION COMPARABLE TO THE US COAST GUARD, BUT HE WANTED SOMETHING AT LEAST UP TO THE BEST REGIONAL STANDARDS. HE ASKED THAT THE USCG TEAM NOT COME TO SAUDI ARABIA PREPARED TO RECOMMEND TEXTBOOK SOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD WORK IN THE US BUT WHICH WOULD NOT STAND A CHANCE IN SAUDI ARABIA. THE TEAM MUST FIRST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LOCAL SAUDI CONDITIONS INCLUDING THE SCARCITY OF MANPOWER AND THE EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER LIMITATIONS OF THAT AVAILABLE. IT WOULD BENEFIT HIM NOT AT ALL, FOR INSTANCE, TO LEARN THAT THE SAUDI COAST GUARD NEEDED 16 ENGINEERS. HE ALREADY KNOWS THAT. HE WANTS TO BE TOLD HOW TO GET THE 16 ENGINEERS OR HOW TO GET BY WITHOUT THEM. AL ASH-SHAYKH SAID MUCH THE SAME THING IS TRUE IN THE AREA OF EQUIPMENT. MONEY NEED NOT BE A PROBLEM. THERE ARE DOZENS OF FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS WILLING TO RECOMMEND NEW ACQUISITIONS, BUT EQUIPMENT WILL NOT SOLVE THE COAST GUARD'S PROBLEMS.

4. GENERAL AL ASH-SHAYKH SAID THAT HE HOPES THE TEAM WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STUDY THE RESULTS OF THE PRESURVEY DONE A YEAR AGO BY CAPTAIN STEPHANY. THIS WILL SAVE TIME AND ENABLE THE TEAM TO BEGIN WORKING MORE QUICKLY. THEY SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, CONSIDER THEMSELVES BOUND BY ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THAT SURVEY. AL ASH-SHAYKH SAID THAT HE WANTS THE USCG TEAM TO PREPARE PROPOSALS FOR RECREATING THE SAUDI COAST GUARD. HE KNOWS THE JOB OF BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION WILL

TAKE SOME TIME AND, IF THE USCG IS WILLING, HE IS PREPARED FOR A RELATIONSHIP OF SOME YEARS.

5. MURPHY SAID THAT ON THE SUBJECT OF AIR-SEA RESCUE THE COAST GUARD TEAM WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE LOOKING AT THE FORMATION OF A SEPARATE AVIATION WING FOR THE COAST GUARD AS THIS WOULD COMPETE FOR RESOURCES WITH OTHER SAG AGENCIES AND PROBABLY BE DUPLICATIVE. THEIR EFFORT IN THIS AREA MIGHT BETTER BE CONCENTRATED ON IMPROVED COORDINATION WITH THE AIR FORCE AS FAR AS THE AIR SERVICES WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED. AL ASH-SHAYKH REPLIED THAT IN LOOKING OVER THE LIST OF TEAM MEMBERS HE NOTED SOME, INCLUDING CAPTAIN BLACK, WERE OBVIOUSLY QUALIFIED TO LOOK INTO AVIATION MATTERS AND HE WANTED THEM TO DO SO. WHAT HE ENVISAGED EVENTUALLY WAS AN AVIATION WING FOR THE COMBINED CG/FF. WHETHER IT WOULD INVOLVE FIXED WING OR ROTARY WINGED AIRCRAFT WAS THE KIND OF QUESTION HE WOULD WANT THE TEAM TO EXAMINE. THE CG/FF ADDITIONALLY NEEDED SOME SURVEILLANCE CAPACITY OF ITS OWN. HE REALIZED THAT AN AVIATION WING IS A LONGER-TERM AFFAIR. HE THEREFORE WANTS THE TEAM TO TREAT THIS QUESTION SEPARATELY AND TO PREPARE A SEPARATE REPORT ON THE QUESTION OF AVIATION. IN CONTRAST, HE HOPED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE COAST GUARD WOULD BE OF A NATURE THAT HE COULD BEGIN IMPLEMENTING THEM RIGHT AWAY.

6. MURPHY SAID THAT THE COAST GUARD TEAM WOULD NOT BE LOOKING INTO MATTERS OF COASTAL DEFENSE EXCEPT TANGENTIALLY. GEN. AL ASH-SHAYKH SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT IT TO. COAST ALL DEFENSE IS A MATTER FOR THE SAUDI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE JUST AS IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT

OF DEFENSE IN THE US.

7. GENERAL AL ASH-SHAYKH IN CONCLUDING THE MEETING SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE USCG TEAM WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ANY AND ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIS OFFICE. HE PERSONALLY WILL INSURE THE COOPERATION OF ALL HIS OFFICERS. HE DESIGNATED COMMANDER MOHAMMED MOTAWA AS LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE TEAM AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.

8. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH CDR MOTAWA, MURPHY DISCUSSED PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TEAM. IT WILL BE GIVEN OFFICE SPACE IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CG/FF. TWO TRANSLATOR/TYPISTS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE TEAM. TWO CARS AND DRIVERS WILL BE PERMANENTLY AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE TEAM. TWO ENGLISH SPEAKING OFFICERS IN ADDITION TO CDR. MOTAWA WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST AND TRAVEL WITH TEAM MEMBERS. HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS IN RIYADH ARE TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY

OF THE USG. CG/FF WILL ASSIST WHEN TRAVELING OUTSIDE
RIYADH. CDR. MOTAWA'S OFFICE PHONE NUMBER IN RIYADH IS
20222 EXT. 66. HIS RESIDENCE NUMBER IS 68582.

9. CHUSMTM AS SENIOR DEFENSE REP WILL COORDINATE
THE TEAM'S ARRANGEMENTS IN THE KINGDOM, INCLUDING THE
PROBLEM OF HOUSING.

10. EMBASSY CONCURS IN JANUARY 17 ARRIVAL DATE IN JIDDA
AND JANUARY 19 ARRIVAL IN RIYADH.
PORTER

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